

REPORT PRESENTED.

Report of the Minister of Public Works for the fiscal year ending 30th June, 1885.—(Sir Hector Langevin.)

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD moved the adjournment of the House.

Motion agreed to; and House adjourned at 10:45 p.m.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

MONDAY, 1st March, 1886.

The SPEAKER took the Chair at Three o'clock.

PRAYERS.

REPORTS PRESENTED.

Trade and Navigation Returns, for the fiscal year ending 30th June, 1885.—(Mr. Bowell.)

Public Accounts of Canada, for the fiscal year ending 30th June, 1885.—(Mr. McLelan.)

Reports, Returns and Statistics of the Inland Revenues of the Dominion of Canada, for the fiscal year ended 30th June, 1885.—(Mr. Costigan.)

Report of the Minister of Justice on the Penitentiaries of the Dominion of Canada, for the fiscal year ending 30th June, 1885.—(Mr. Thompson.)

Report of the Department of Marine, for the year ending 30th June, 1885.—(Mr. Foster.)

Report of the Auditor-General, for the year ending 30th June, 1885.—(Mr. McLelan.)

HOLES IN ICE ON FREQUENTED WATERS.

Mr. ROBERTSON (Hamilton) moved for leave to introduce Bill (No. 2) to amend the Criminal Law, and to declare it a misdemeanor to leave unguarded and exposed, holes cut in the ice on any navigable or frequented waters.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Explain.

Mr. ROBERTSON (Hamilton). I have very great pleasure in explaining the provisions of the Bill, which has been already introduced to the notice of this honorable House on several occasions before. It now comes in a shape in which I hope it will meet with the approbation of every member of the House. Last Session it passed through its second reading, and the rather extraordinary course was taken of objecting to it on the third reading. It was then referred to a special committee, and was reported to the House, and in the shape in which it was reported I now introduce it. I hope there will be no objection to the Bill, which has met with great approbation in all parts of the Dominion.

Motion agreed to, and Bill read the first time.

LAW OF EVIDENCE IN CRIMINAL CASES.

Mr. ROBERTSON (Hamilton) moved for leave to introduce Bill (No. 3) to further amend the Law of Evidence in Criminal Cases. He said: This is to allow parties who have an objection to taking an oath to give their evidence by affirmation.

Motion agreed to, and Bill read the first time.

CONSOLIDATED RAILWAY ACT, 1879.

Mr. MULOCK moved for leave to introduce Bill (No. 4) to further amend the Consolidated Railway Act of 1879. He said: This is the Bill which I had the honor to introduce last Session, and which I then explained at some length. I have added two clauses, the first of which is to

provide a remedy for the Act passed in 1872, requiring the railway companies to redeem unused railway tickets. That Act, however, provided no adequate remedy, and when this Bill comes up for discussion I think I will be able to show that some railway companies, at least, have taken advantage of the defect in the Act to avoid complying with its provisions. The next clause, about which there may be some difference of opinion, is to repeal section 6 of the Act of 1883, by which the Dominion Parliament took over the Provincial railways.

Motion agreed to, and Bill read the first time.

DIGBY PIER.

Mr. VAIL asked, Is it the intention of the Government to rebuild the Digby Pier on the present site? If so, when will the work be commenced?

Sir HECTOR LANGEVIN. This matter is now under the consideration of the Government.

GROSS DEBT OF THE DOMINION.

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT asked, What was the gross debt of the Dominion on the 1st day of March, 1886?

Mr. McLELAN. The gross debt on the first March, 1886, without deducting the assets of \$72,791,837, was \$281,314,532.

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT asked, What portion of the gross debt of the Dominion was represented by temporary loans from banks or other parties, in Canada or elsewhere?

Mr. McLELAN. \$14,362,309.67.

LOBSTER FISHING, P. E. I.

Mr. HACKETT asked, Whether it is the intention of the Government to impose such regulations as will entirely prohibit the fishing of Lobsters for canning purposes around the Coasts of Prince Edward Island, for the term of three years, as rumored in the newspapers of the Maritime Provinces?

Mr. FOSTER. It is not.

LOUIS RIEL MEDICAL COMMISSION.

Mr. COURSOL asked, Whether the Government, after the conviction of Louis Riel, appointed a Medical Commission to enquire into the mental condition of the prisoner; if so, did the said commission forward a report to the Government, and is it the intention of the Government to lay the said report before the House, and when?

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. In consequence of certain representations, the Government caused an enquiry to be made by two medical practitioners as to the mental accountability of Louis Riel since his conviction, and also procured a report from the visiting surgeon-physician on that subject. These reports will be laid before the House at once if moved for, and the hon. gentleman may, with the consent of the House, move for them now.

Mr. COURSOL moved for a return of the reports made by the medical commission into the mental condition of Louis Riel after his conviction.

Motion agreed to.

THE NORTH-WEST—GRANTS OF LAND TO MR. VALIN, M.P.

Mr. CASGRAIN (Translation) moved for a return showing all grants of land made to Mr. Valin, M. P.,